Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03001 231118Z

15
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 011032
P 231033Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1476
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 3001

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, JO
SUBJ: AIR DEFENSE

1. ALTHOUGH JORDANIANS HAVE NOT BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF US AIR DEFENSE SURVEY OF JORDAN, HE ASKED ME TWO QUESTIONS RELATED TO AIR DEFENSE.

2. FIRST QUESTION CONCERNED INFORMATION WHICH HE HAD THAT U.S. HAD DEVELOPED AIR DEFENSE MISSILE SYSTEM CHEAPER THAN IMPROVED HAWK AND COMPARABLE TO SOVIET SA-6.

3. I REPLIED THAT CHAPARRAL WAS ONLY SYSTEM I KNEW OF IN THIS CATEGORY, AND WAS UNAWARE OF PRICE.

4. SECOND QUESTION CONCERNED RED EYE. HE ASKED IF WE STILL WERE NOT MAKING RED EYE AVAILABLE TO ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL. I CONFIRMED THAT THIS CONTINUED TO BE U.S. PLOICY AS FAR AS I KNEW AND HE DID NOT PRESS QUESTION.

5. ON FIRST QUESTION, I TOLD HIM I WOULD TOUCH BASE WITH WASHINGTON AND GIVE HIM AN ANSWER. UNLESS WASHINGTON OBJECTS, AND ON BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, I WOULD REAFFIRM DURING OUR NEXT MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS THAT CHAPPARRAL APPEARS TO BE SYSTEM HE HAS IN MIND. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF COSTS HERE ON BASIS DECEMBER WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY FOR FOUR BATTERIES OF CHAPARRAL
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 03001 231118Z

IS THAT SUCH WOULD BE ABOUT $73 MILLION--ONLY ABOUT $15

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MILLION LESS THAN THE CURRENTLY QUOTED $87 MILLION PRICE TAG
FOR IMPROVED HAWK. IN ADDITION, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL HIM
THAT LEAD TIMES FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT, SHOULD JORDANIANS WANT
IT AND DECISION BE MADE TO PROVIDE IT, WOULD BE 36 TO 44
MONTHS AS OPPOSED TO 36 MONTH OR LONGER LEAD TIME FOR
IMPROVED HAWK. IN SUM, CHAPARRAL LOOKS ONLY SOMEWHAT BETTER
THAN IMPROVED HAWK FROM COST POINT OF VIEW.

6. CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. BIN SHAKER ALSO RECENTLY QUERIED DATT
REGARDING U.S. OPINION OF NON-U.S. AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS ROLAND
AND CROTALE, INDICATING HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT JORDAN'S AIR DEFENSE PROBLEM. WE HAVE THUS FAR HELD
OUR REPLY TO INFO AVAILABLE IN JANE'S AND SUGGESTED THAT THOSE
SYSTEMS WERE OLDER GENERATION AND PROBABLY HAVE HEAVY O AND M
COSTS. WE WOULD BE PREPARED MAKE FURTHER LOW KEY APPRAISAL
OF CROTALE AND ROLAND SYSTEMS IF DEPARTMENT AND DOD AGREE AND
CAN PROVIDE US WITH THE INFORMATION.
PICKERING

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